<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claim 36 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, 17, 19-23, 26-31, 34, and 37, and add new Claims 38 and 39, as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

~~synthesizing means for synthesizing a first pixel with a second pixel so as to generate a new pixel based on a transmissivity indicative of a ratio of the first pixel to the second pixel in the new pixel; and~~

color determination means for determining a color of a new pixel based upon a color of a first pixel, a color of a second pixel and a transmissivity, and

selection ~~attribute determination~~ means for selecting ~~determining an~~ attribute information of the new pixel ~~based on~~ from attribute ~~data~~ information of the first pixel and ~~and,~~ attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel in accordance with ~~and~~ the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information indicates any of an image, a graphic or a character.

2.   (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel as attribute ~~data~~ information of the new pixel, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is

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lower than the threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute ~~data~~ information of the first pixel as the attribute ~~data~~ information of the new pixel.

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel,

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel, and

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means ~~determines~~ selects attribute information ~~data~~ of a pixel having a higher priority as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel.

4. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means determines the threshold value in accordance with a combination of values of the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel and the second pixel.

5. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising image processing means for performing image processing on a pixel ~~pixel, obtained by said synthesizing~~ that has a color determined by said determination means, based on the attribute information ~~data~~ of the pixel.

6. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the processing performed by said image processing means includes color conversion processing.

7. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the processing performed by said image processing means includes pseudo-tone processing.

8. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising output means for outputting an image, constructed with a pixel, ~~synthesized by said synthesizing means and~~ having a color determined by said determination means and ~~an~~ the attribute information ~~determined~~ selected by said ~~attribute determination~~ selection means.

9. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said output means is printing means.

10.   (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

~~a synthesizing step of synthesizing a first pixel with a second pixel so as to generate a new pixel based on a transmissivity indicative of a ratio of the first pixel to the second pixel in the new pixel; and~~

a color determining step of determining a color of a new pixel based upon a color of a first pixel, a color of a second pixel and a transmissivity, and

a selecting ~~an attribute determination~~ step of selecting ~~determining an~~ attribute information of the new pixel ~~based on~~ from attribute ~~data~~ information of the first pixel ~~pixel,~~ and attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel in accordance with~~, and~~ the transmissivity.

11.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step, in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the second pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel.

12.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step, in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the second pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel,

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel, and

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, attribute information ~~data~~ of a pixel having a higher priority is ~~determined~~ selected as the attribute data of the new pixel.

13.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step, the threshold value is determined in accordance with a combination of values of the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel and the second pixel.

14.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 10, further comprising an image processing step of performing image processing on a pixel ~~pixel,~~ ~~obtained in said synthesizing step~~ that has a color determined in said determining step, based on the attribute ~~data~~ information of the pixel.

15.   (Original) The image processing method according to claim 14, wherein the processing performed in said image processing step includes color conversion processing.

16.   (Original) The image processing method according to claim 14, wherein the processing performed in said image processing step includes pseudo-tone processing.

17.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 10, further comprising an output step of outputting an image, constructed with a pixel ~~synthesized in said synthesizing step and~~ having a color determined in said determining step and ~~an~~ attribute information ~~determined~~ selected in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step.

18.   (Original) The image processing method according to claim 17, wherein in said output step, printing is performed by a printing engine.

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising ~~realizing~~:

   ~~synthesizing means for synthesizing a first pixel with a second pixel so as to generate a new pixel based on a transmissivity indicative of a ratio of the first pixel to the second pixel in the new pixel; and~~

   color determination procedure code means for determining a color of a new pixel based upon a color of a first pixel, a color of a second pixel and a transmissivity, and

   selection procedure code ~~attribute determination~~ means for ~~determining~~ selecting ~~an~~ attribute information of the new pixel ~~based on~~ from attribute ~~data~~ information of the first pixel ~~pixel,~~ and attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel in accordance with~~, and~~ the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information indicates any of an image, a graphic or a character.

20.   (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19, wherein in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection procedure code means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel as attribute ~~data~~ information of the new pixel, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection procedure code means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute ~~data~~ information of the first pixel as the attribute ~~data~~ information of the new pixel.

21.   (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19, wherein in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection procedure code means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel,

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection procedure code means ~~determines~~ selects the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel, and

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, said ~~attribute determination~~ selection procedure code means ~~determines~~ selects attribute information ~~data~~ of a pixel having a higher priority as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 20, wherein said ~~attribute determination~~ <u>selection procedure code</u> means determines the threshold value in accordance with a combination of values of the attribute <u>information</u> ~~data~~ of the first pixel and the second pixel.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19, further comprising image processing means for performing image processing on a pixel, ~~obtained by said synthesizing~~ <u>that has a color determined by said determination procedure code</u> means, based on the attribute <u>information</u> ~~data~~ of the pixel.

24. (Original) The computer program according to claim 23, wherein the processing performed by said image processing means includes color conversion processing.

25. (Original) The computer program according to claim 23, wherein the processing performed by said image processing means includes pseudo-tone processing.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19, further comprising output means for outputting an image, constructed with a pixel, ~~synthesized by said synthesizing means and~~ having <u>a color determined by said determination procedure code means and</u> ~~an~~ attribute <u>information</u> ~~determined~~ <u>selected</u> by said ~~attribute determination~~ <u>selection procedure code</u> means.

27.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program, said computer program comprising:

~~a synthesizing step of synthesizing a first pixel with a second pixel so as to generate a new pixel based on a transmissivity indicative of a ratio of the first pixel to the second pixel in the new pixel; and~~

a color determining step of determining a color of a new pixel based upon a color of a first pixel, a color of a second pixel and a transmissivity, and

a selecting ~~an attribute determination~~ step of selecting ~~determining an~~ attribute information of the new pixel ~~based on~~ from attribute ~~data~~ information of the first pixel and ~~pixel,~~ attribute ~~data~~ information of the second pixel in accordance with ~~and~~ the transmissivity.

28.   (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 27, wherein in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step, in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the second pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the first pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel.

29.   (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 27, wherein in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step, in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, the attribute information ~~data~~ of the second pixel is ~~determined~~ selected as the attribute information ~~data~~ of the new pixel,

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, the attribute ~~information~~ <u>data</u> of the first pixel is ~~determined~~ <u>selected</u> as the attribute ~~information~~ <u>data</u> of the new pixel, and

in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, attribute ~~information~~ <u>data</u> of a pixel having a higher priority is ~~determined~~ <u>selected</u> as the attribute data of the new pixel.

30.   (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 28, wherein in said ~~attribute determination~~ <u>selecting</u> step, the threshold value is determined in accordance with a combination of values of the attribute ~~information~~ <u>data</u> of the first pixel and the second pixel.

31.   (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 27, said computer program further comprising an image processing step of performing image processing on a pixel~~, obtained in said synthesizing step~~ <u>that has a color determined in said determining step</u>, based on the attribute ~~data~~ <u>information</u> of the pixel.

32.   (Original) The storage medium according to claim 31, wherein the processing performed in said image processing step includes color conversion processing.

33.   (Original) The storage medium according to claim 31, wherein the processing performed in said image processing step includes pseudo-tone processing.

34. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 27, said computer program further comprising an output step of outputting an image, constructed with a pixel ~~synthesized in said synthesizing step and~~ having a color determined in said determining step and ~~an~~ attribute information ~~determined~~ selected in said ~~attribute determination~~ selecting step.

35. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first pixel is a pixel of an image generated based on print data received from a host computer, and the second pixel is a pixel of a form image stored in advance in said image processing apparatus.

Claim 36 (Cancelled).

37. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input interface unit to which print data is inputted;

first memory for storing form image data;

a processing unit for determining a color of respective pixels in a synthesized image data ~~generating input image data based on the print data, synthesizing the input image data with the form image data~~ based on a color of respective pixels in input image data generated from the print data, a color of respective pixels in form image data and a ~~designated~~ transmissivity, and ~~determining~~ selecting attribute ~~data~~ information of ~~synthesized image data~~ the respective pixels in the synthesized image data ~~based on~~ from attribute ~~data~~ information of the

respective pixels in the input image data and data, attribute data information of the respective

pixels in the form image data, and in accordance with the transmissivity, wherein the attribute

information indicates any of an image, a graphic or a character; and

second memory for storing the synthesized image data generated by said

processing unit and attribute data information of the respective pixels in the synthesized image

data.

38. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the attribute information

includes information indicating any of an image, a graphic or a character.

39. (New) A storage medium according to claim 27, wherein the attribute

information includes information indicating any of an image, a graphic or a character.